



Bid Number: 05-X-36964

**NOTICE OF AWARD SPECIFICATION FOR:
FRESH PRODUCE - SOUTHWOODS STATE PRISON ONLY**

Date Issued: 6/29/04

Purchasing Agency
State of New Jersey
Department of the Treasury
Division of Purchase and Property
Purchase Bureau, PO Box 230
33 West State Street
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0230

Using Agency
State of New Jersey - Southwoods State Prison Only

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 1.0 INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS | 4 |
| 1.1 PURPOSE AND INTENT | 4 |
| 1.2 BACKGROUND | 4 |
| 1.3 KEY EVENTS..... | 4 |
| 1.3.1 QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES..... | 4 |
| 1.3.1.1 QUESTION PROTOCOL..... | 5 |
| 1.3.1.2 CUT-OFF DATE FOR QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES..... | 5 |
| 1.4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION | 5 |
| 1.4.1 REVISIONS TO THIS RFP | 5 |
| 1.4.2 ADDENDUM AS A PART OF THIS RFP | 5 |
| 1.4.3 ISSUING OFFICE | 5 |
| 1.4.4 BIDDER RESPONSIBILITY | 5 |
| 1.4.5 COST LIABILITY | 6 |
| 1.4.6 CONTENTS OF BID PROPOSAL | 6 |
| 1.4.7 PRICE ALTERATION | 6 |
| 1.4.8 JOINT VENTURE | 6 |
| 2.0 DEFINITIONS..... | 7 |
| 2.1 GENERAL DEFINITIONS | 7 |
| 3.0 COMMODITY DESCRIPTION/SCOPE OF WORK | 8 |
| 4.0 PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION | 9 |
| 4.1 GENERAL..... | 9 |
| 4.2 PROPOSAL DELIVERY AND IDENTIFICATION | 9 |
| 4.3 NUMBER OF BID PROPOSAL COPIES | 9 |
| 4.4 PROPOSAL CONTENT | 9 |
| 4.4.1 FORMS..... | 10 |
| 4.4.1.1 OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE FORM | 10 |
| 4.4.1.2 MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES CERTIFICATION..... | 10 |
| 4.4.1.3 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION | 10 |
| 4.4.1.4 SET-ASIDE CONTRACTS | 10 |
| 4.4.1.5 BID BOND | 10 |
| 4.4.2 SUBMITTALS | 10 |
| 4.4.2.1 DISCLOSURE OF PRODUCT COMPOSITION..... | 10 |
| 4.4.2.2 BIDDER DATA SHEET | 10 |
| 4.4.2.3 REFERENCE DATA SHEETS - SATISFACTORY CUSTOMER SERVICE | 11 |
| 4.4.2.4 MANDATORY CONTRACTOR DATA SHEET - TERMINATED CONTRACTS..... | 11 |
| 4.4.2.5 SAMPLES/SAMPLE TESTING | 12 |
| 4.4.2.6 FINANCIAL CAPABILITY OF THE BIDDER | 12 |
| 4.4.3 COST PROPOSAL | 12 |
| 4.4.4 METHOD OF BIDDING/PRICE SHEET INSTRUCTIONS | 13 |
| 5.0 SPECIAL CONTRACTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS | 14 |
| 5.1 PRECEDENCE OF SPECIAL CONTRACTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS | 14 |
| 5.2 BUSINESS REGISTRATION | 14 |
| 5.3 CONTRACT TERM AND EXTENSION OPTION..... | 14 |
| 5.5 AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS | 14 |
| 5.6 CONTRACT AMENDMENT | 14 |
| 5.7 PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS AND AMENDMENTS | 14 |
| 5.8 ITEMS ORDERED AND DELIVERED | 15 |
| 5.9 DISCLOSURE OF PRODUCT COMPOSITION | 15 |
| 5.10 REMEDIES FOR NON-PERFORMANCE..... | 15 |
| 6.0 PROPOSAL EVALUATION/CONTRACT AWARD..... | 17 |
| 6.2 ORAL PRESENTATION AND/OR CLARIFICATION OF BID PROPOSAL | 17 |
| 7.0 ATTACHMENTS, SUPPLEMENTS AND APPENDICES..... | 18 |

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| ATTACHMENT 1 - OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE FORM..... | ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED. |
| ATTACHMENT 2 - MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES FORM..... | ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED. |
| ATTACHMENT 3 – AFFIRMATIVE ACTION SUPPLEMENT | ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED. |
| ATTACHMENT 4 - RECIPROCITY FORM | ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED. |
| APPENDIX 1 NJ STATE STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS..... | 19 |
| APPENDIX 2 - SET-OFF FOR STATE TAX NOTICE | 26 |

1.0 INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS

1.1 PURPOSE AND INTENT

This Request for Proposal (RFP) is issued by the Purchase Bureau, Division of Purchase and Property, Department of the Treasury on behalf of the Department of the Corrections (DOC). The purpose of this RFP is to solicit bid proposals for Fresh Produce which is to be delivered to Southwoods State Prison in Bridgeton, N.J.

The intent of this RFP is to award contracts (one primary contract and one secondary contract) to those responsible bidders whose bids, conforming to this request for proposal is most advantageous to the State, price and other factors considered.

IMPORTANT NOTE: THE PRIMARY CONTRACTOR FOR THIS CONTRACT IS MICH KIM CORP AND THE SECONDARY CONTRACTOR IS PARIS PRODUCE CO.

The Standard Terms & Conditions, [Appendix 1](#) of this RFP, will apply to all contracts or purchase agreements made with the State of New Jersey. These terms are in addition to the terms and conditions set forth in this RFP and should be read in conjunction with same unless the RFP specifically indicates otherwise.

1.2 BACKGROUND

This is a new procurement for Southwoods State Prison only. Due to its food processing facility and quantities purchased by Southwoods State Prison, a separate contract has been created to meet its unique purchasing needs. This contract, although for a single agency, is structured similarly to the **Fresh Produce (T-1353)**, term contract, presently due to expire on **June 30, 2004**. However, T-1353 is a contract set up for statewide use. Therefore, keep in mind that although similarly structured, the two contracts will differ in terms of delivery and quantities. Vendors who are interested in the current contract specifications for T-1353 and pricing information are encouraged to visit the Purchase Bureau's website on the World Wide Web. The applicable "T" reference number for this lookup is **ENTER T-#1353**. The exact WWW address is <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/contracts.htm>

1.3 KEY EVENTS

1.3.1 QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES

It is the policy of the Purchase Bureau to accept questions and inquiries from all vendors. Written questions should be mailed, e-mailed or faxed to the Purchase Bureau to the attention of the assigned Purchase Bureau buyer at the following address:

Attn: **Joseph Signoretta**
State of New Jersey
Division of Purchase and Property
Purchase Bureau
PO Box 230
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0230

E- Mail: Joseph.Signoretta@treas.state.nj.us
Phone Number: 609-777-0202
Fax Number: 609-292-0490

After the submission of bid proposals, unless requested by the State, contact with the State is limited to status inquiries only and such inquiries are only to be directed to the buyer. Any further contact or information about the proposal to the buyer or any other State official connected with the solicitation will be considered an impermissible supplementation of the bidder's bid proposal.

1.3.1.1 QUESTION PROTOCOL

Questions should be submitted in writing to the attention of the assigned Purchase Bureau buyer. Written questions should be directly tied to the RFP by the writer. Questions should be asked in consecutive order, from beginning to end, following the organization of the RFP. Each question should begin by referencing the RFP page number and section number to which it relates.

Short procedural inquiries may be accepted by telephone by the Purchase Bureau buyer, however, oral explanations or instructions given over the telephone shall not be binding on the State. Vendors shall not contact the Using Agency directly, in person, or by telephone, concerning this RFP.

1.3.1.2 CUT-OFF DATE FOR QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES

The cut-off date for questions and inquiries relating to this RFP is ten (10) working days prior to the original bid opening date. Addenda, if any, to this RFP will be posted to the Purchase Bureau website (see Section 1.4.1. of this RFP for further information.)

1.4 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1.4.1 REVISIONS TO THIS RFP

In the event that it becomes necessary to clarify or revise this RFP, such clarification or revision will be by addendum.

ALL RFP ADDENDA WILL BE ISSUED ON THE PURCHASE BUREAU WEB SITE. TO ACCESS ADDENDA THE BIDDER MUST SELECT THE BID NUMBER ON THE PURCHASE BUREAU BIDDING OPPORTUNITIES WEB PAGE AT THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

[HTTP://WWW.STATE.NJ.US/TREASURY/PURCHASE/BID/SUMMARY/BID.SHTML](http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/bid/summary/bid.shtml)

There are no designated dates for release of addenda. Therefore interested bidders should check the Purchase Bureau "Bidding Opportunities" website on a daily basis from time of RFP issuance through bid opening.

It is the sole responsibility of the bidder to be knowledgeable of all addenda related to this procurement.

1.4.2 ADDENDUM AS A PART OF THIS RFP

Any addendum to this RFP shall become part of this RFP and part of any contract awarded as a result of this RFP.

1.4.3 ISSUING OFFICE

This RFP is issued by the Purchase Bureau, Division of Purchase and Property. The buyer noted in Section 1.3.1 is the sole point of contact between the vendor and the State for purposes of this RFP.

1.4.4 BIDDER RESPONSIBILITY

The bidder assumes sole responsibility for the complete effort required in submitting a bid proposal in response to this RFP. No special consideration will be given after bid proposals are opened because of a bidder's failure to be knowledgeable as to all of the requirements of this RFP. By submitting a bid proposal in response to this RFP, the bidder represents that it has satisfied itself, from its own investigation, as to all of the requirements of this RFP.

1.4.5 COST LIABILITY

The State assumes no responsibility and bears no liability for costs incurred by a bidder in the preparation and submittal of a bid proposal in response to this RFP.

1.4.6 CONTENTS OF BID PROPOSAL

The entire content of every bid proposal will be publicly opened and will become a matter of public record. This is the case notwithstanding any statement to the contrary made by a bidder in its bid proposal. All bid proposals, as public records, are available for public inspection. Interested parties can make an appointment to inspect bid proposals received in response to this RFP by contacting the Purchase Bureau buyer.

1.4.7 PRICE ALTERATION

Bid prices must be typed or written in ink. Any price change (including "white-outs") must be initialed. Failure to initial price changes shall preclude a contract award being made to the bidder.

1.4.8 JOINT VENTURE

If a joint venture is submitting a bid proposal, the agreement between the parties relating to such joint venture should be submitted with the joint venture's bid proposal. Authorized signatories from each party comprising the joint venture must sign the bid proposal. A separate Ownership Disclosure Form, Affirmative Action Employee Information Report, MacBride Principles Certification and business registration must be supplied by each party to the joint venture.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

The following definitions shall be part of any contract awarded or order placed as result of this RFP.

Addendum - Written clarification or revision to this RFP issued by the Purchase Bureau.

Amendment - A change in the scope of work to be performed by the contractor. An amendment is not effective until signed by the Director, Division of Purchase and Property.

Bidder – A vendor submitting a bid proposal in response to this RFP.

Contract - This RFP, any addendum to this RFP, the bidder's bid proposal submitted in response to this RFP and the Division's Notice of Acceptance.

Contractor - The contractor is the bidder awarded a contract.

Director - Director, Division of Purchase and Property, Department of the Treasury. By statutory authority, the Director is the chief contracting officer for the State of New Jersey.

Division - The Division of Purchase and Property.

May - Denotes that which is permissible, but not mandatory.

Request for Proposal (RFP) - This document, which establishes the bidding and contract requirements and solicits bid proposals to meet the purchase needs of [the] Using Agency[ies], as identified herein.

Shall or Must - Denotes that which is a mandatory requirement. Failure to meet a mandatory requirement will result in the rejection of a bid proposal, as materially non-responsive.

Should - Denotes that which is recommended, but not mandatory.

State - State of New Jersey

Using Agency[ies] or Agency[ies] - The entity[ies] for which the Division has issued this RFP.

3.0 COMMODITY DESCRIPTION/SCOPE OF WORK

3.0 The State intends to award one primary contractor and one secondary contractor for delivery of produce directly to Southwoods State Prison in Bridgeton as per the price index for the produce items listed on the price sheet. DOC will utilize the primary contractor only, however, the secondary contractor may be used in those situations where the primary contractor is unable to make a delivery in the time stated in the primary contractor's contract.

3.1 This contract and its pricing shall be directly related to the posted Philadelphia terminal prices as provided by Fruit and Vegetable Market News, Federal-State Market News Service, USDA.

3.2 All fresh vegetable and fruit produce to be purchased under this contract are listed and described on the price sheets found at the end of this request for proposal.

3.3 The contractor is to supply the produce as described in the line item specification.

3.4 For each item listed in this RFP, pricing will be based on a firm fixed plus or minus margin over or under the average price as posted by the Philadelphia terminal prices as provided by Fruit and Vegetable Market News, Federal-State Market News Service, USDA for the average price prior to the day of order. The firm, fixed plus or margin will be in dollars and/or cents, i.e. +\$1.00 or -\$3.00 etc.

3.5 Where pricing is shown as a range, the average of the low price and the high price will be used as basis for the plus or minus margin.

3.6 Order amounts will be in accordance with the amounts indicated on the price lines found on the attached price sheet. For each type of produce pricing is requested twice. One price line is for order quantities ranging from one (1) case to twenty (20) cases. The second price line for each type of produce is order quantities of twenty-one (21) cases or greater.

3.7 Due to the nature of correctional facilities, the contractor must make special arrangements prior to delivery of products to the facility. In the event of product rejection, product replacement must take place within 24 hours.

3.8 Price sheets are found at the end of this Request for Proposal. All produce items are grouped and all items within the group must be bid.

4.0 PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION

4.1 GENERAL

The bidder must follow instructions contained in this RFP and on the bid cover sheet in preparing and submitting its bid proposal. The bidder is advised to thoroughly read and follow all instructions.

The first page (face) of this RFP shall be signed by an authorized representative of the bidder. However, if the bidder is a limited partnership, the first page (face) of this RFP must be signed by a general partner. If the bidder is a joint venture, the first page (face) of this RFP must be signed by a principal of each party to the joint venture. Failure to comply will result in rejection of the bid proposal.

Pricing and information sheets must be completed in their entirety. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in rejection of the bid proposal.

No changes or white outs will be permitted on the specification sheets, unless each change is initialed and dated in ink by the bidder.

4.2 PROPOSAL DELIVERY AND IDENTIFICATION

In order to be considered, a bid proposal must arrive at the Purchase Bureau in accordance with the instructions on the RFP cover sheet. Bidders are cautioned to allow adequate delivery time to ensure timely delivery of bid proposals. State regulation mandates that late bid proposals are ineligible for consideration. **THE EXTERIOR OF ALL BID PROPOSAL PACKAGES MUST BE LABELED WITH THE BID IDENTIFICATION NUMBER, FINAL BID OPENING DATE AND THE BUYER'S NAME.** (See RFP cover sheet).

4.3 NUMBER OF BID PROPOSAL COPIES

Each bidder must submit **one (1) complete ORIGINAL bid proposal**, clearly marked as the "ORIGINAL" bid proposal. Each bidder should submit **one (1) full, COMPLETE and EXACT copy** of the original. The copies requested are necessary in the evaluation of the bid proposal. Bidders failing to provide the requested number of copies will be charged the cost incurred by the State in producing the requested number of copies. It is suggested that the bidder make and retain a copy of its bid proposal.

4.4 PROPOSAL CONTENT

The bid proposal should be submitted as follows:

Forms (Section 4.4.1)

| CONTENTS | RFP SECTION REFERENCE | COMMENTS |
|----------|---|--|
| Forms | Cover sheet | Completed and signed cover sheet (Page 3 of this RFP) |
| | 4.4.1.1 | Ownership Disclosure Form (Attachment 1) |
| | 4.4.1.2 | MacBride Principles Certification (Attachment 2) |
| | 4.4.1.3 | Affirmative Action Employee Information Report or New Jersey Affirmative Action Certificate (Attachment 3) |
| | Appendix 1 - 1.1 of the Standard Terms & Conditions | Business Registration from Division of Revenue |

4.4.1 FORMS

4.4.1.1 OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE FORM

In the event the bidder is a corporation or partnership, the bidder must complete the attached Ownership Disclosure Form. A completed Ownership Disclosure Form must be received prior to or accompany the bid proposal. Failure to do so will preclude the award of a contract.

The Ownership Disclosure Form is attached as [Attachment 1](#) to this RFP.

4.4.1.2 MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES CERTIFICATION

The bidder must complete the attached MacBride Principles Certification evidencing compliance with the MacBride Principles. Failure to do so may result in the award of the contract to another vendor.

The MacBride Principles Certification Form is attached as [Attachment 2](#) to this RFP

4.4.1.3 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

The bidder must complete the attached Affirmative Action Employee Information Report, or, in the alternative, supply either a New Jersey Affirmative Action Certificate or evidence that the bidder is operating under a Federally approved or sanctioned affirmative action program. The requirement is a precondition to entering into a State contract.

The Affirmative Action Forms are attached as [Attachment 3](#) to this RFP

4.4.1.4 SET-ASIDE CONTRACTS

Not applicable to this procurement.

4.4.1.5 BID BOND

RESERVED

4.4.2 SUBMITTALS

4.4.2.1 DISCLOSURE OF PRODUCT COMPOSITION

Not applicable to this procurement.

4.4.2.2 BIDDER DATA SHEET

The bidder must provide all of the information requested. The bidder may provide its response on a separate attachment but should clearly note here that it is doing so:

1. Name of individual that may be contacted at all times if information, service, or problem solving is required by the Using Agency. This service shall be available at no additional charge.

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State:_____

Telephone Number:_____Fax Number:_____

2. Years of this individual's experience in servicing similar accounts:_____

3. Identify the similar accounts this individual has serviced:

4.4.2.3 REFERENCE DATA SHEETS - SATISFACTORY CUSTOMER SERVICE

The bidder must provide all of the information requested. The bidder may provide its response on a separate attachment but should clearly state here that it is doing so:

Supply the name(s) of present customers you are servicing for contracts of a similar size and scope to those required by this RFP. The State reserves the right to visit these locations and verify production.

1. Name of customer provided as reference:_____

Name of individual State may contact to verify reference:

1st individual:_____ Phone # of contact person:_____

2nd individual:_____ Phone # of contact person:_____

Length of time services provided by the bidder to this customer:_____

2. Name of customer provided as reference:

1st individual:_____ Phone # of contact person:_____

2nd individual:_____ Phone # of contact person:_____

Length of time services provided by the bidder to this customer:_____

3. Name of customer provided as reference

1st individual:_____ Phone # of contact person:_____

2nd individual:_____ Phone # of contact person:_____

Length of time services provided by the bidder to this customer:_____

4.4.2.4 MANDATORY CONTRACTOR DATA SHEET - TERMINATED CONTRACTS

The bidder must provide all of the information requested. The bidder may provide its response on a separate attachment but should clearly state here that it is doing so:

Provide a list of contracts, if any, your firm has been terminated from during the last three years along with the reason that your contract was terminated. List name of contact person and phone number of the firm which terminated your firm's contract.

1. Name of Firm: _____
Contact Person: _____
Phone Number: _____
Reason for Termination: _____

2. Name of Firm: _____
Contact Person: _____
Phone Number: _____
Reason for Termination: _____

3. Name of Firm: _____
Contact Person: _____
Phone Number: _____
Reason for Termination: _____

4.4.2.5 SAMPLES/SAMPLE TESTING

Pre-bid sampling will not be required for this procurement. The State, however, reserves the right to obtain samples if deemed necessary and in accordance with section 3.8 of the Purchase Bureau Standard Terms and Conditions.

4.4.2.6 FINANCIAL CAPABILITY OF THE BIDDER

Not applicable to this procurement.

4.4.3 COST PROPOSAL

The bidder must submit its pricing using the State supplied price sheet(s) attached to this RFP. Failure to submit all information required will result in the bid being

considered non-responsive. Each bidder is required to hold its prices firm through issuance of contract.

4.4.4 **METHOD OF BIDDING/PRICE SHEET INSTRUCTIONS**

The bidder is to provide a firm fixed plus or minus margin over or under the average price as posted by the Philadelphia terminal prices as provided by fruit and vegetable market news, federal-state market news service, USDA for the average price prior to the day of order. The bidder is to submit pricing for all produce items listed in the grouping. Failure to do so will result in bid rejection. Pricing submitted must be in the form of a plus or minus margin over or under the applicable price index and must be in shown in dollars and/or cents, i.e. +\$1.00 or -\$3.00 . Percentage markups or discounts will not be accepted and will be rejected. The rejection of any one or more price line item will result in the rejection of the entire bid proposal. Price sheets are found at the end of this request for proposal. All produce items are grouped and all items within the group must be bid.

5.0 SPECIAL CONTRACTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

5.1 PRECEDENCE OF SPECIAL CONTRACTUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The contract awarded as a result of this RFP shall consist of this RFP, addendum to this RFP, the contractor's bid proposal and the Division's Notice of Award.

Unless specifically stated within this RFP, the Special Contractual Terms and Conditions [Appendix 1](#) of the RFP take precedence over the Standard Terms and Conditions of the RFP.

In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this RFP, including the Special Contractual Terms and Conditions and the Standard Terms and Conditions, and any Addendum to this RFP, the Addendum shall govern.

In the event of a conflict between the provisions of this RFP, including any Addendum to this RFP, and the bidder's bid proposal, the RFP and/or the Addendum shall govern.

5.2 BUSINESS REGISTRATION

See Standard Terms & Conditions, [Appendix 1, Section 1.1](#).

5.3 CONTRACT TERM AND EXTENSION OPTION

The term of the contract shall be for a period of two (2) years. The anticipated "Contract Effective Date" is provided on the cover sheet of this RFP. If delays in the bid process result in an adjustment of the anticipated Contract Effective Date, the bidder agrees to accept a contract for the full term of the contract. The contract may be extended for two (2) one year periods by mutual written consent of the contractor and the Director. Purchase orders may be placed against the contract up to and including the end of business on the last day of the contract, for delivery no more than 45 days after the contract is over.

5.4 Contract Transition

In the event that a new contract has not been awarded prior to the contract expiration date, as may be extended herein, it shall be incumbent upon the contractor to continue the contract under the same terms and conditions until a new contract can be completely operational. At no time shall this transition period extend more than 90 days beyond the expiration date of the contract.

5.5 AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

The State's obligation to pay the contractor is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds from which payment for contract purposes is made. No legal liability on the part of the State for payment of any money shall arise unless funds are made available each fiscal year to the Using Agency by the Legislature.

5.6 CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Any changes or modifications to the terms of the contract shall only be valid when they have been reduced to writing and signed by the contractor and the Director.

5.7 PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS AND AMENDMENTS

5.7.1 The contractor shall comply with procedural instructions that may be issued from time to time by the Director.

5.7.2 During the period of the contract, no contractual changes are permitted, unless approved in writing by the Director.

5.7.3 The State reserves the right to separately procure individual requirements that are the subject of the contract during the contract term, when deemed by the Director to be in the State's best interest.

5.8 ITEMS ORDERED AND DELIVERED

The Using Agency is authorized to order and the contractor is authorized to ship only those items covered by the contract. If a review of orders placed by the agency reveals that material other than that covered by the contract has been ordered and delivered, such delivery shall be a violation of the terms of the contract and may be considered by the Director in the termination of the contract or in the award of any subsequent contract. The Director may take such steps as are necessary to have the items returned by the agency, regardless of the time between the date of delivery and discovery of the violation. In such event, the contractor shall reimburse the State the full purchase price.

The contract involves items, which are necessary for the continuation of ongoing critical State services. Any delay in delivery of these items would disrupt State services and would force the State to immediately seek alternative sources of supply on an emergency basis. Timely delivery is critical to meeting the State's ongoing needs.

5.9 DISCLOSURE OF PRODUCT COMPOSITION

Not applicable to this procurement.

5.10 REMEDIES FOR NON-PERFORMANCE

In the event that the contractor fails to comply with any material contract requirements, the Director may take steps to terminate the contract in accordance with the State administrative code. In this event, the Director may authorize the delivery of contract items by any available means, with the difference between the price paid and the defaulting contractor's price either being deducted from any monies due the defaulting contractor or being an obligation owed the State by the defaulting contractor.

5.11 All products must conform in every respect to the standards and regulations established by Federal and New Jersey State laws.

5.12 All products shall be manufactured and packaged under modern sanitary conditions in accordance with good commercial practice.

5.13 All products are to be packaged in sizes as specified in this RFP and shall be packaged in such a manner as to insure delivery in first class condition and properly marked for identification. All shipments must be comprised of original cartons associated with the commercial industry represented by the actual product contained within each carton. Deliveries containing re-used, re-labeled, re-worked or alternate cartons are subject to rejection by the Using Agency at the contractor's expense.

5.14 All weights are net weights.

5.15 All products are subject to final acceptance at point of delivery. Rejected shipments are the responsibility of the contractor and must be removed from the Using Agency's premises at the contractor's expense.

5.16 The State reserves the right to test the delivered product during the contract term to ensure that it meets the contract requirements. If the product fails to meet contract requirements, the delivery shall be rejected and must be replaced within a period of time considered reasonable by the Using Agency. If said replacement is not made, the Using Agency reserves the right to purchase the product elsewhere, charging any increase in price and cost of handling, if any, to the contractor.

5.17 Damaged Goods Upon Delivery: shipments containing damaged goods may be either partially accepted by the Using Agency (with damaged goods rejected) or totally rejected by the Using Agency depending on the severity of the damage. The carrier truck driver will bear sole responsibility for any "re-working" of palletized damaged goods for the removal of any damaged goods from acceptable goods. The Using Agency will not be responsible for any additional costs associated with this procedure. This will apply to all carriers and all deliveries. It is the responsibility of the contractor to communicate these requirements to the carriers it employs for deliveries to the Using Agency. In such event, the Using Agency may avail itself of the remedy afforded it under Section 5.17.

5.18 Performance Bond

Not applicable to this procurement.

6.0 PROPOSAL EVALUATION/CONTRACT AWARD

- 6.1 For a product bid that has been determined to be in compliance with this RFP, the contract shall be awarded on the basis of the following criteria, not necessarily listed in the order of importance:

6.1.1 Price - Total for line items 1 through 38.

6.1.2 Experience of the bidder

6.1.3 The bidder's past performance under similar contracts, including if applicable, the Division's vendor performance database.

6.2 ORAL PRESENTATION AND/OR CLARIFICATION OF BID PROPOSAL

After the submission of bid proposals, unless requested by the State, contact with the State is limited to status inquiries only and such inquiries are only to be directed to the buyer. Any further contact or information about the proposal to the buyer or any other State official connected with the solicitation will be considered an impermissible supplementation of the bidder's bid proposal.

A bidder may be required to give an oral presentation to the Evaluation Committee concerning its bid proposal. The Evaluation Committee may also require a bidder to submit written responses to questions regarding its bid proposal.

The purpose of such communication with a bidder, either through an oral presentation or a letter of clarification, is to provide an opportunity for the bidder to clarify or elaborate on its bid proposal. Original bid proposals submitted, however, cannot be supplemented, changed, or corrected in any way. No comments regarding other bid proposals are permitted. Bidders may not attend presentations made by their competitors.

It is within the Evaluation Committee's discretion whether to require a bidder to give an oral presentation or require a bidder to submit written responses to questions regarding its bid proposal. Action by the Evaluation Committee in this regard should not be construed to imply acceptance or rejection of a bid proposal. The Purchase Bureau buyer will be the sole point of contact regarding any request for an oral presentation or clarification.

6.3 Contract award for all line items 00001 through 00038 in the grouping, shall be made to one (1) primary and one (1) secondary bidder, with reasonable promptness by written notice to that responsible bidder(s) whose bid, conforming to the invitation for bids, will be most advantageous to the State, price, and other factors considered. Any or all bids may be rejected when the State Treasurer or the Director determines that it is in the public interest so to do.

7.0 APPENDICES

APPENDICES

1. [New Jersey Standard Terms and Conditions](#)
2. [Set-Off for State Tax Notice](#)

APPENDIX 1 NJ STATE STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

STATE OF NEW JERSEY STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- I. Unless the bidder is specifically instructed otherwise In the Request for Proposal, the following terms and conditions will apply to all contracts or purchase agreements made with the State of New Jersey. These terms are in addition to the terms and conditions set forth in the Request for Proposal (RFP) and should be read in conjunction with same unless the RFP specifically indicates otherwise. If a bidder proposes changes or modifications or takes exception to any of the State's terms and conditions, the bidder must so state specifically in writing in the bid proposal. Any proposed change, modification or exception in the State's terms and conditions by a bidder will be a factor in the determination of an award of a contractor purchase agreement.
- II. All of the State's terms and conditions will become a part of any contract(s) or order(s) awarded as a result of the Request for Proposal, whether stated in part, in summary or by reference. In the event the bidder's terms and conditions conflict with the State's, the State's terms and conditions will prevail, unless the bidder is notified in writing of the State's acceptance of the bidder's terms and conditions.
- III. The statutes, laws or codes cited are available for review at the New Jersey State Library, 185 West State Street, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.
- IV. If awarded a contract or purchase agreement, the bidder's status shall be that of any independent principal and not as an employee of the State.

1. STATE LAW REQUIRING MANDATORY COMPLIANCE BY ALL CONTRACTORS

- 1.1 BUSINESS REGISTRATION** - All New Jersey and out of State Corporations must obtain a Business Registration Certificate (BRC) from the Department of the Treasury, Division of Revenue prior to conducting business in the State of New Jersey. Proof of valid business registration with the Division of Revenue, Department of the Treasury, State of New Jersey, should be submitted by the bidder and, if applicable, by every subcontractor of the bidder, with the bidder's bid. No contract will be awarded without proof of business registration with the Division of Revenue. Any questions in this regard can be directed to the Division of Revenue at (609) 292-1730. Form NJ-REG. can be filed online at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/revenue/gettingregistered.htm#busentity>
- 1.2 ANTI-DISCRIMINATION** - All parties to any contract with the State of New Jersey agree not to discriminate in employment and agree to abide by all anti-discrimination laws including those contained within N.J.S.A. 10:2-1 through N.J.S.A. 10:2-4, N.J.S.A.10:5-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A.10:5-31 through 10:5-38, and all rules and regulations issued there under.
- 1.3 PREVAILING WAGE ACT** - The New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34: 11-56.26 et seq. is hereby made part of every contract entered into on behalf of the State of New Jersey through the Division of Purchase and Property, except those contracts which are not within the contemplation of the Act. The bidder's signature on this proposal is his guarantee that neither he nor any subcontractors he might employ to perform the work covered by this proposal has been suspended or debarred by the Commissioner, Department of Labor for violation of the provisions of the Prevailing Wage Act.
- 1.4 AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT** - The contractor must comply with all provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), P.L 101-336, in accordance with 42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.
- 1.5 THE WORKER AND COMMUNITY RIGHT TO KNOW ACT** - The provisions of N.J.S.A. 34:5A-1 et seq. which require the labeling of all containers of hazardous substances are applicable to this contract. Therefore, all goods offered for purchase to the State must be labeled by the contractor in compliance with the provisions of the Act.
- 1.6 OWNERSHIP DISCLOSURE** - Contracts for any work, goods or services cannot be issued to any corporation or partnership unless prior to or at the time of bid submission the bidder has disclosed the names and addresses of all its owners holding 10% or more of the corporation or partnership's stock or interest. Refer to N.J.S.A. 52:25-24.2.
- 1.7 COMPLIANCE - LAWS** - The contractor must comply with all local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations applicable to this contract and to the goods delivered and/or services performed hereunder.
- 1.8 COMPLIANCE - STATE LAWS** - It is agreed and understood that any contracts and/or orders placed as a result of this proposal shall be governed and construed and the rights and obligations of the parties hereto shall be determined in accordance with the laws of the STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

- 1.9 **COMPLIANCE - CODES** - The contractor must comply with NJUCC and the latest NEC70, B.O.C.A. Basic Building code, OSHA and all applicable codes for this requirement. The contractor will be responsible for securing and paying all necessary permits, where applicable.

2. **LIABILITIES**

- 2.1 **LIABILITY - COPYRIGHT** - The contractor shall hold and save the State of New Jersey, its officers, agents, servants and employees, harmless from liability of any nature or kind for or on account of the use of any copyrighted or uncopyrighted composition, secret process, patented or unpatented invention, article or appliance furnished or used in the performance of his contract.
- 2.2 **INDEMNIFICATION** - The contractor shall assume all risk of and responsibility for, and agrees to indemnify, defend, and save harmless the State of New Jersey and its employees from and against any and all claims, demands, suits, actions, recoveries, judgments and costs and expenses in connection therewith on account of the loss of life, property or injury or damage to the person, body or property of any person or persons whatsoever, which shall arise from or result directly or indirectly from the work and/or materials supplied under this contract. This indemnification obligation is not limited by, but is in addition to the insurance obligations contained in this agreement.
- 2.3 **INSURANCE** - The contractor shall secure and maintain in force for the term of the contract liability insurance as provided herein. The contractor shall provide the State of New Jersey with current certificates of insurance for all coverages and renewals thereof which must contain the proviso that the insurance provided in the certificate shall not be canceled for any reason except after thirty days written notice to:

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Purchase Bureau - Bid Ref.#

The insurance to be provided by the contractor shall be as follows.

- a. General liability policy as broad as the standard coverage forms currently in use in the State of New Jersey which shall not be circumscribed by any endorsements limiting the breadth of coverage. The policy shall be endorsed to include:

1. BROAD FORM COMPREHENSIVE GENERAL LIABILITY
2. PRODUCTS/COMPLETED OPERATIONS
3. PREMISES/OPERATIONS

The limits of liability for bodily injury and property damage shall not be less than \$1 million per occurrence as a combined single limit.

- b. Automobile liability insurance which shall be written to cover any automobile used by the insured. Limits of liability for bodily injury and property damage shall not be less than \$1 million per occurrence as a combined single limit.

- c. Worker's Compensation Insurance applicable to the laws of the State of New Jersey and Employers Liability Insurance with limits not less than

\$100,000 BODILY INJURY, EACH OCCURRENCE
\$100,000 DISEASE EACH EMPLOYEE
\$500,000 DISEASE AGGREGATE LIMIT

3. **TERMS GOVERNING ALL PROPOSALS TO NEW JERSEY PURCHASE BUREAU**

- 3.1 **CONTRACT AMOUNT** - The estimated amount of the contract(s), when stated on the Advertised Request for Proposal form, shall not be construed as either the maximum or minimum amount which the State shall be obliged to order as the result of this Request for Proposal or any contract entered into as a result of this Request for Proposal.

- 3.2 **CONTRACT PERIOD AND EXTENSION OPTION** - If, in the opinion of the Director of the Division of Purchase and Property, it is in the best interest of the State to extend an contract entered into as a result of this Request for Proposal, the contractor will be so notified of the Director's Intent at least 30 days prior to the expiration date of the existing contract. The contractor shall have 15 calendar days to respond to the Director's request to extend the contract. If the contractor agrees to the extension, all terms and conditions of the original contract, including price, will be applicable.

3.3 **BID AND PERFORMANCE SECURITY**

- a. Bid Security - If bid security is required, such security must be submitted with the bid in the amount listed in the Request for Proposal, see N.J.A.C. 17: 12- 2.4. Acceptable forms of bid security are as follows:
1. A properly executed individual or annual bid bond issued by an insurance or security company authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey, a certified or cashier's check drawn to the order of the Treasurer, State of New

Jersey, or an irrevocable letter of credit drawn naming the Treasurer, State of New Jersey as beneficiary issued by a federally insured financial institution.

2. The State will hold all bid security during the evaluation process. As soon as is practicable after the completion of the evaluation, the State will:

- a. Issue an award notice for those offers accepted by the State;
- b. Return all bond securities to those who have not been issued an award notice.

All bid security from contractors who have been issued an award notice shall be held until the successful execution of all required contractual documents and bonds (performance bond, insurance, etc. If the contractor fails to execute the required contractual documents and bonds within thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of award notice, the contractor may be found in default and the contract terminated by the State. In case of default, the State reserves all rights inclusive of, but not limited to, the right to purchase material and/or to complete the required work in accordance with the New Jersey Administrative Code and to recover any actual excess costs from the contractor. Collection against the bid security shall be one of the measures available toward the recovery of any excess costs.

- b. Performance Security - If performance security is required, the successful bidder shall furnish performance security in such amount on any award of a term contractor line item purchase, see N.J.A.C. 17: 12- 2.5. Acceptable forms of performance security are as follows:
 1. The contractor shall be required to furnish an irrevocable security in the amount listed in the Request for Proposal payable to the Treasurer, State of New Jersey, binding the contractor to provide faithful performance of the contract.
 2. The performance security shall be in the form of a properly executed individual or annual performance bond issued by an insurance or security company authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey, a certified or cashier's check drawn to the order of the Treasurer, State of New Jersey, or an irrevocable letter of credit drawn naming the Treasurer, State of New Jersey as beneficiary issued by a federally insured financial institution.

The Performance Security must be submitted to the State within 30 days of the effective date of the contract award and cover the period of the contract and any extensions thereof. Failure to submit performance security may result in cancellation of contract for cause pursuant to provision 3.5b,1, and nonpayment for work performed.

- 3.4 VENDOR RIGHT TO PROTEST - INTENT TO AWARD** - Except in cases of emergency, bidders have the right to protest the Director's proposed award of the contract as announced in the Notice of Intent to Award, see N.J.A.C. 17:12-3.3. Unless otherwise stated, a bidder's protest must be submitted to the Director within 10 working days after receipt of written notification that his bid has not been accepted or that an award of contract has been made. In the public interest, the Director may shorten this protest period, but shall provide at least 48 hours for bidders to respond to a proposed award. In cases of emergency, stated in the record, the Director may waive the appeal period. See N.J.A.C. 17: 12- 3 et seq.

3.5 TERMINATION OF CONTRACT

- a. Change of Circumstances

Where circumstances and/or the needs of the State significantly change, or the contract is otherwise deemed no longer to be in the public interest, the Director may terminate a contract entered into as a result of this Request for Proposal, upon no less than 30 days notice to the contractor with an opportunity to respond.

In the event of such termination, the contractor shall furnish to the using agency, free of charge, such reports as may be required,

- b. For cause:
 1. Where a contractor fails to perform or comply with a contract, and/or fails to comply with the complaints procedure in N.J.A.C. 17: 12-4.2 et seq., the Director may terminate the contract upon 10 days notice to the contractor with an opportunity to respond.
 2. Where a contractor continues to perform a contract poorly as demonstrated by formal complaints, late delivery, poor performance of service, short-shipping etc., so that the Director is repeatedly required to use the complaints procedure in N.J.A.C. 17:12-4.2 et seq. the Director may terminate the contract upon 10 days notice to the contractor with an opportunity to respond.
- c. In cases of emergency the Director may shorten the time periods of notification and may dispense with an opportunity to respond.
- d. In the event of termination under this section, the contractor will be compensated for work performed in accordance with the contract, up to the date of termination. Such compensation may be subject to adjustments.

3.6 COMPLAINTS - Where a bidder has a history of performance problems as demonstrated by formal complaints and/or contract cancellations for cause pursuant to 3.5b a bidder may be bypassed for this award. See N.J.A.C. 17:12-2.8.

3.7 EXTENSION OF CONTRACT QUASI-STATE AGENCIES - It is understood and agreed that in addition to State Agencies, Quasi-State Agencies may also participate in this contract. Quasi-State Agencies are defined in N.J.S.A. 52:27B-56.1 as any agency, commission, board, authority or other such governmental entity which is established and is allocated to a State department or any bi-state governmental entity of which the State of New Jersey is a member.

3.8 EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS TO POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND FIRST AID SQUADS, AND INDEPENDENT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION - N.J.S.A. 52:25-16.1 permits counties, municipalities and school districts to participate in any term contract(s), that may be established as a result of this proposal.

N.J.S.A. 52:25-16.2 permits volunteer fire departments, volunteer first aid squads and rescue squads to participate in any term contract(s) that may be established as a result of this proposal.

N.J.S.A. 52:25-16.5 permits independent institutions of higher education to participate in any term contract(s) that may be established as a result of this proposal, provided that each purchase by the Independent Institution of higher education shall have a minimum cost of \$500.

In order for the State contract to be extended to counties, municipalities, school districts, volunteer fire departments, first aid squads and independent institutions of higher education the bidder must agree to the extension and so state in his bid. proposal. The extension to counties municipalities, school districts, volunteer fire departments, first aid squads and Independent Institutions of higher education must 'be under the same terms and conditions, including price, applicable to the State.

3.9 EXTENSIONS OF CONTRACTS TO COUNTY COLLEGES - N.J.S.A. 18A:64A - 25. 9 permits any college to participate in any term contract(s) that may be established as a result of this proposal.

3.10 EXTENSIONS OF CONTRACTS TO STATE COLLEGES - N.J.S.A. 18A:64- 60 permits any State College to participate in any term contract(s) that may be established as a result of this proposal.

3.11 SUBCONTRACTING OR ASSIGNMENT - The contract may not be subcontracted or assigned by the contractor, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of the Director of the Division of Purchase and Property. Such consent, if granted, shall not relieve the contractor of any of his responsibilities under the contract.

In the event the bidder proposes to subcontract for the services to be performed under .the terms of the contract award, he shall state so in his bid and attach for approval a list of said subcontractors and an Itemization of the products and/or services to be supplied by them.

Nothing contained in the specifications shall be construed as creating any contractual relationship between any subcontractor and the State.

3.12 MERGERS, ACQUISITIONS - If, subsequent to the award of any contract resulting from this Request for Proposal, the contractor shall merge with or be acquired by another firm, the following documents must be submitted to the Director, Division of Purchase & Property.

- a. Corporate resolutions prepared by the awarded contractor and new entity ratifying acceptance of the original contract, terms, conditions and prices.
- b. State of New Jersey Bidders Application reflecting all updated information including ownership disclosure, pursuant to provision 1.5.
- c. Vendor Federal Employer Identification Number.

The documents must be submitted within thirty (30) days of completion of the merger or acquisition. Failure to do so may result in termination of contract pursuant to provision 3.5b.

If subsequent to the award of any contract resulting from this Request for Proposal, the contractor's partnership or corporation shall dissolve, the Director, Division of Purchase & Property must be so notified. All responsible parties of the dissolved partnership or corporation must submit to the Director in writing, the names of the parties proposed to perform the contract, and the names of the parties to whom payment should be made. No payment should be made until all parties to the dissolved partnership or corporation submit the required documents to the Director.

3.13 PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE OF BIDDER - The bidder hereby certifies that:

- a. The equipment offered is standard new equipment, and is the manufacturer's latest model in production, with parts regularly used for the type of equipment offered; that such parts are all in production and not likely to be discontinued;

and that no attachment or part has been substituted or applied contrary to manufacturer's recommendations and standard practice.

- b. All equipment supplied to the State and operated by electrical current is UL listed where applicable.
- c. All new machines are to be guaranteed as fully operational for the period stated in the Request For Proposal from time of written acceptance by the State. The bidder will render prompt service without charge, regardless of geographic location.
- d. Sufficient quantities of parts necessary for proper service to equipment will be maintained at distribution points and service headquarters.
- e. Trained mechanics are regularly employed to make necessary repairs to equipment in the territory from which the service request might emanate within a 48-hour period or within the time accepted as industry practice.
- f. During the warranty period the contractor shall replace immediately any material which is rejected for failure to meet the requirements of the contract.
- g. All services rendered to the State shall be performed in strict and full accordance with the specifications stated in the contract. The contract shall not be considered complete until final approval by the State's using agency is rendered.

3.14 DELIVERY GUARANTEES - Deliveries shall be made at such time and in such quantities as ordered in strict accordance with conditions contained in the Request for Proposal.

The contractor shall be responsible for the delivery of material in first class condition to the State's using agency or the purchaser under this contract and in accordance with good commercial practice.

Items delivered must be strictly in accordance with the Request for Proposal.

In the event delivery of goods or services is not made within the number of days stipulated or under the schedule defined in the Request for Proposal, the using agency may be authorized to obtain the material or service from any available source, the difference in price, if any, to be paid by the contractor failing to meet his commitments.

3.15 DIRECTOR'S RIGHT OF FINAL BID ACCEPTANCE - The Director reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to award in whole or in part if deemed to be in the best interest of the State to do so. The Director shall have authority to award orders or contracts to the vendor or vendors best meeting all specifications and conditions in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:34-12. Tie bids will be awarded by the Director in accordance with N.J.A.C.17:12-2.1D.

3.16 BID ACCEPTANCES AND REJECTIONS - The provisions of N.J.A.C. 17:12-2.9, relating to the Director's right, to waive minor elements of non-compliance with bid specifications and N.J.A.C. 17: 12- 2.2 which defines causes for automatic bid rejection, apply to all proposals and bids.

3.17 STATE'S RIGHT TO INSPECT BIDDER'S FACILITIES - The State reserves the right to inspect the bidder's establishment before making an award, for the purposes of ascertaining whether the bidder has the necessary facilities for performing the contract.

The State may also consult with clients of the bidder during the evaluation of bids. Such consultation is intended to assist the State in making a contract award which is most advantageous to the State.

3.18 STATE'S RIGHT TO REQUEST FURTHER INFORMATION - The Director reserves the right to request all information which may assist him or her in making a contract award, including factors necessary to evaluate the, bidder s financial capabilities to perform the contract. Further, the Director reserves the right to request a bidder to explain, in detail, how the bid price was determined.

3.19 MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS - The contractor shall maintain records for products and/or services delivered against the contract for a period of three (3) years from the date of final payment. Such records shall be made available to the, State upon request for purposes of conducting an audit or for ascertaining information regarding dollar volume or number of transactions.

4. TERMS RELATING TO PRICE QUOTATION

4.1 PRICE FLUCTUATION DURING CONTRACT - Unless otherwise noted by the State, all prices quoted shall be firm through issuance of contract or purchase order and shall not be subject to increase during the period of the contract.

In the event of a manufacturer's or contractor's price decrease during the contract period, the State shall receive the full benefit of such price reduction on any undelivered purchase order and on any subsequent order placed during the contract period. The Director of Purchase and Property must be notified, in writing, of any price reduction within five (5) days of the effective date.

Failure to report price reductions will result in cancellation of contract for cause, pursuant to provision 3.5b.1.

- 4.2 DELIVERY COSTS** - Unless otherwise noted in the Request for Proposal, all prices for items in bid proposals are to be submitted F.O.B. Destination. Proposals submitted other than F.O.B. Destination may not be considered. Regardless of the method of quoting shipments, the contractor shall assume all costs, liability and responsibility for the delivery of merchandise in good condition to the State's using agency or designated purchaser.

F.O.B. Destination does not cover "spotting" but does include delivery on the receiving platform of the ordering agency at any destination in the State of New Jersey unless otherwise specified. No additional charges will be allowed for any additional transportation costs resulting from partial shipments made at contractor's convenience when a single shipment is ordered. The weights and measures of the State's using agency receiving the shipment shall govern.

- 4.3 C.O.D. TERMS** - C.O.D. terms are not acceptable as part of a bid proposal and will be cause for rejection of a bid.

- 4.4 TAX CHARGES** - The State of New Jersey is exempt from State sales or use taxes and Federal excise taxes. Therefore, price quotations must not include such taxes. The State's Federal Excise Tax Exemption number is 22-75-0050K.

- 4.5 PAYMENT TO VENDORS** - Payment for goods and/or services purchased by the State will only be made against State Payment Vouchers. The State bill form in duplicate together with the original Bill of Lading, express receipt and other related papers must be sent to the consignee on the date of each delivery. Responsibility for payment rests with the using agency which will ascertain that the contractor has performed in a proper and satisfactory manner in accordance with the terms and conditions of the award. Payment will not be made until the using agency has approved payment.

For every contract the term of which spans more than one fiscal year, the State's obligation to make payment beyond the current fiscal year is contingent upon legislative appropriation and availability of funds.

The State of New Jersey now offers State contractors the opportunity to be paid through the VISA procurement card (p-card). A contractor's acceptance and a State Agency's use of the p-card, however, is optional. P-card transactions do not require the submission of either a contractor invoice or a State payment voucher. Purchasing transactions utilizing the p-card will usually result in payment to a contractor in three days. A Contractor should take note that there will be a transaction processing fee for each p-card transaction. To participate, a contractor must be capable of accepting the VISA card. For more information, call your bank or any merchant services company.

- 4.6 NEW JERSEY PROMPT PAYMENT ACT** - The New Jersey Prompt Payment Act N.J.S.A. 52:32-32 et seq. requires state agencies to pay for goods and services within sixty (60) days of the agency's receipt of a properly executed State Payment Voucher or within sixty (60) days of receipt and acceptance of goods and services, whichever is later. Properly executed performance security, when required, must be received by the state prior to processing any payments for goods and services accepted by state agencies. Interest will be paid on delinquent accounts at a rate established by the State Treasurer. Interest will not be paid until it exceeds \$5.00 per properly executed invoice.

Cash discounts and other payment terms included as part of the original agreement are not affected by the Prompt Payment Act.

- 4.7 RECIPROCITY** - In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:32-1.4 and N.J.A.C. 17: 12- 2. 13, the State of New Jersey will invoke reciprocal action against an out-of-State bidder whose state or locality maintains a preference practice for their bidders.

- 5. CASH DISCOUNTS** - Bidders are encouraged to offer cash discounts based on expedited payment by the State. The State will make efforts to take advantage of discounts, but discounts will not be considered in determining the lowest bid.

- a. Discount periods shall be calculated starting from the next business day after the recipient has accepted the goods or services received a properly signed and executed State Payment Voucher form and, when required, a properly executed performance security, whichever is latest.
- b. The date on the check issued by the State in payment of that Voucher shall be deemed the date of the State's response to that Voucher.

- 6. STANDARDS PROHIBITING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST** - The following prohibitions on vendor activities shall apply to all contracts or purchase agreements made with the State of New Jersey, pursuant to Executive Order No. 189 (1988).

- a. No vendor shall pay, offer to pay, or agree to pay, either directly or indirectly, any fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity, or other thing of value of any kind to any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee, as defined by N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13b and e., in the Department of the Treasury or any other agency with which such vendor transacts or offers or proposes to transact business, or to any member of the immediate family, as defined by N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13i., of any such officer or employee, or partnership, firm or corporation with which they are employed or associated, or in which such officer or employee has an interest within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 52: 13D-13g.

- b. The solicitation of any fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity or other thing of value by any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee from any State vendor shall be reported in writing forthwith by the vendor to the Attorney General and the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards.
- c. No vendor may, directly or indirectly, undertake any private business, commercial or entrepreneurial relationship with, whether or not pursuant to employment, contract or other agreement, express or implied, or sell any interest in such vendor to, any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee or special State officer or employee having any duties or responsibilities in connection with the purchase, acquisition or sale of any property or services by or to any State agency or any instrumentality thereof, or with any person, firm or entity with which he is employed or associated or in which he has an interest within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 52: 130-13g. Any relationships subject to this provision shall be reported in writing forthwith to the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards, which may grant a waiver of this restriction upon application of the State officer or employee or special State officer or employee upon a finding that the present or proposed relationship does not present the potential, actuality or appearance of a conflict of interest.
- d. No vendor shall influence, or attempt to influence or cause to be influenced, any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee in his official capacity in any manner which might tend to impair the objectivity or independence of judgment of said officer or employee.
- e. No vendor shall cause or influence, or attempt to cause or influence, any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee to use, or attempt to use, his official position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for the vendor or any other person.
- f. The provisions cited above in paragraph 6a through 6e shall not be construed to prohibit a State officer or employee or Special State officer or employee from receiving gifts from or contracting with vendors under the same terms and conditions as are offered or made available to members of the general public subject to any guidelines the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards may promulgate under paragraph 6c.

APPENDIX 2 - SET-OFF FOR STATE TAX NOTICE

NOTICE TO ALL BIDDERS **SET-OFF FOR STATE TAX NOTICE**

Please be advised that, pursuant to P.L. 1995, c. 159, effective January 1, 1996, and notwithstanding any provision of the law to the contrary, whenever any taxpayer, partnership or S corporation under contract to provide goods or services or construction projects to the State of New Jersey or its agencies or instrumentalities, including the legislative and judicial branches of State government, is entitled to payment for those goods or services at the same time a taxpayer, partner or shareholder of that entity is indebted for any State tax, the Director of the Division of Taxation shall seek to set off that taxpayer's or shareholder's share of the payment due the taxpayer, partnership, or S corporation. The amount set off shall not allow for the deduction of any expenses or other deductions which might be attributable to the taxpayer, partner or shareholder subject to set-off under this act.

The Director of the Division of Taxation shall give notice to the set-off to the taxpayer and provide an opportunity for a hearing within 30 days of such notice under the procedures for protests established under R.S. 54:49-18. No requests for conference, protest, or subsequent appeal to the Tax Court from any protest under this section shall stay the collection of the indebtedness. Interest that may be payable by the State, pursuant to P.L. 1987, c.184 (c.52:32-32 et seq.), to the taxpayer shall be stayed.

